

Alamogordo, NM, for doing an outstanding job in the All America City Award competition. Alamogordo finished in the top 30, which is a great achievement considering it was their first time in the competition.

The National Civic League, NCL, focuses its efforts on strengthening and promoting community democracy by bringing together all sectors of society in addressing common needs. The All America City Award, sponsored by the NCL, recognizes that the basis of a healthy democratic society is cooperation and participation of private citizens, government, voluntary organizations and government. Those communities that foster an environment where citizens can express their needs and concerns and articulate challenges they face, and then bring together all of its resources to address those needs, exemplify democracy at work. These political systems respond to the needs of its citizens and in doing so, allow them to focus on their pursuit of their American dream. Alamogordo should take pride in the fact that they foster this environment in their community.

As the Alamogordo All America City award application mentions, the community's efforts in three specific areas, water conservation, economic development and healthy youth, attest to the community's strength and spirit of cooperation. The success of Alamogordo's water conservation efforts is truly a model for the State, decreasing usage from 6.61 million gallons per day in 2000 to 4.82 million gallons per day in 2003, even while experiencing population growth. The community-wide efforts to develop the local economy, and create jobs have been a tremendous success, leading not only to new jobs, but to multiplier effects in healthcare, community charitable giving and education. The third area of focusing on healthy youth is exemplified in the skateboard park, which provides safe recreation alternatives for 12,600 kids each year.

Further, the community of Alamogordo actively encourages basic and necessary democratic practices—encouraging citizens to take active roles in articulating and resolving community issues, encouraging effective and efficient local government, and harnessing local philanthropic and volunteer resources with the end goal of cooperating and building consensus, reinvigorating the community's vision for itself, facilitating intergroup relations, sharing information in the community, and inspiring community pride.

The hard work and dedication of a handful of notable public servants who acted as delegates for the presentation, and contributed to this tremendous success include: Joan Griggs; Anne Romero; Gwen McCourt; Don and Rosemarie Carroll; Maureen Schmittle; Inez Moncada; Donald Cooper; Susan Flores; Sharon and Al Hodges; Kory Guerra; Phillip Flores; Peter Madrid; Tammie and Ana Reynolds; Elva Oesterreich;

Forst Hibler; Laura and Austin Harris; Major John Bryan; Elizabeth Upton; Ed Carr; Sharon Masters; Flori and Raschal McElderry; Amanda Runnels; Shannon Flanagan; Penina Nunnelley; Tony Taylor; and Dr. Rodger and Judy Bates.

I would also like to recognize other team members who were not able to make the trip to Atlanta, but whose hard, tireless work made the presentation possible. Finally, I congratulate each and every Alamogordo citizen on their efforts to build this model community, and for setting an example that we can all look to for inspiration. I appreciate their efforts in representing New Mexico on the on the national level as an example of civic pride and partnership in community improvement.●

#### THE PASSING OF SOL STETIN

● Mr. LAUNTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who dedicated his life to the working men and women of New Jersey and the entire country, Sol Stetin. Sol passed away a few weeks ago, right after his 95 birthday. For many of those years he was a dear friend to me and my family. My family and I, and millions of others who knew Sol by name or reputation, will miss him very much.

From the time since Sol's family arrived at Ellis Island in 1921, when he was just 10 years old, Sol worked hard to help his father provide for their family. At 16, Sol went into business for himself delivering newspapers. He even employed several other young men to help him. Sol was also a caddy at a local gold club and an amateur boxer.

Sol grew up on the streets of Paterson, NJ, which is my home town. Back then, Paterson was a blue collar mill town where the people worked hard, often under extremely dangerous conditions. Like my own father, Sol took a job as a dye worker in a silk mill. In 1932, the workers declared a strike at the mill and although Sol's job remained safe, he joined those struggling workers and helped to lead their effort, ultimately becoming one of the organizers.

After that first strike on behalf of the hard-working men at that Paterson silk mill, Sol Stetin decided to dedicate his life to defending the rights of those who worked so hard to keep their families fed, housed, and clothed. Sol began his career in the labor movement and quickly became one of the most respected advocates for the workers in this country, rising through the ranks to become a member of the executive council of the AFL-CIO and the Vice President of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

Sol knew how important it was to preserve and teach the history of the labor movement so he was one of the founders of the American Labor Museum-Botto House National Landmark in Haledon, NJ. As president of the Museum, he was instrumental in creating

a training center that is now the model for educating those who continue to fight for fairness and safety in the workplace.

Sol Stetin was a legendary figure in Paterson, where you could often find him sitting in a diner or standing on a street corner, talking and meeting with people who wanted to thank him for what he had done, or to seek his advice. He truly was one of those rare people who come along once in awhile and make a real difference in other people's lives.

Sol's brother Irving Stetin was one of my father's closest friends when they were young men. They both worked in the silk mills in Paterson long before unions were in place, and they suffered from inadequate wages, no pay for holidays off, no healthcare, and no compensation for my mother when my father died at age 43. The cause of his death was attributed to unsafe and unhealthy working conditions in the mill.

A powerful lifetime impression was created for me as I lived through those dreadful days with my mother and my little sister. I learned first-hand, the hard way, about the things working people need for their well-being and a decent quality of life. Those memories will always be with me and they serve as a guide for my decisions, not withstanding my good fortune as an executive in a very successful business.

Because of the tireless work of Sol Stetin and his colleagues in the early days of the labor movement, what happened to my father is no longer the rule, but the exception.

Sol Stetin's family came to America in search of a better life. Then Sol dedicated himself to helping other people in that same search. Sol dedicated himself to giving something back to this country we love so much. For that, each and every American should be as grateful to him as I am.

Sol Stetin lived a long life. But more important, he lived a good life, devoted to helping others. We mourn his passing, but we celebrate his tremendous accomplishments on behalf of so many working men and women and their families and the country. We will miss him.●

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3130. An act making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for veterans medical services; to the Committee on Appropriations.

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on the Judiciary by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

S. 759. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make higher education more affordable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.